

P23698.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit : 2851

Serial No. : 10/646,811

Examiner : Unknown

Filed : August 25, 2003

For : OPTICAL ELEMENT RETRACTING MECHANISM FOR A
RETRACTABLE PHOTOGRAPHING LENS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby calls the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 58-145930, published on August 31, 1983, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,525,050 to OHASHI, issued on June 25, 1985;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 61-69002, published on April 9, 1986, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,643,555 to WAKABAYASHI, issued on February 17, 1987;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 61-270737, published on December 1, 1986, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,721,972 to WAKABAYASHI, issued on January 26, 1988;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 63-149629, published on June 22, 1988,

P23698.A01

together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,792,822 to AKIYAMA et al., issued on December 20, 1988;

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 64-34623, published on March 2, 1989, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 6-18777, published on January 28, 1994, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 7-191249, published on July 28, 1995, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,818,647 to NISHIO et al., issued on October 6, 1998;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-109203, published on April 23, 1999, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,031,998 to SHONO, issued on February 29, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 4,451,129 to IKARI et al., issued on May 29, 1984;

U.S. Patent No. 4,643,554 to OGAWA, issued on February 17, 1987;

U.S. Patent No. 4,771,303 to MATSUMOTO et al., issued on September 13, 1988;

U.S. Patent No. 4,887,107 to NAKAMURA et al., issued on December 12, 1989;

U.S. Patent No. 5,136,324 to TSUBOI et al., issued on August 4, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 5,765,049 to HASE et al., issued on June 9, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,832,326 to TANAKA, issued on November 3, 1998; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,366,323 to SHONO, issued on April 2, 2002.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents and enclosed translations. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.491(b),

P23698.A01

Applicant notes that the instant application was filed after June 30, 2003, and thus, copies of the above-mentioned U.S. patents are not attached hereto. Copies of the above-noted foreign (i.e., Japanese) documents are attached and all of the above-mentioned documents have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

Initially, Applicant notes that the instant application is one of 27 (together with U.S.S.N.'s 10/646,748; 10/646,872; 10/646,711; 10/646,735; 10/646,824; 10/646,836; 10/646,871; 10/646,908; 10/646,788; 10/646,724; 10/646,736; 10/646,882; 10/646,884; 10/646,907; 10/646,835; 10/646,723; 10/646,712; 10/646,698; 10/646,771; 10/646,895; 10/646,772; 10/646,812; 10/646,859; 10/646,860; 10/646,759; and 10/646,800) co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications, which were all filed on the same date and contain related subject matter. However, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the following three of the above-listed applications, which are believed to be of particular relevance to the present application. Only copies of these applications are attached hereto but should the Examiner so request, Applicant will provide copies of any or all of the remaining 23 co-pending applications.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,860 to NOMURA, entitled "Optical Element Retracting Mechanism for a Photographic Lens," filed on August 25, 2003;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,771 to NOMURA, entitled "Optical Element

P23698.A01

Retracting Mechanism for a Photographic Lens,” filed on August 25, 2003; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,895 to NOMURA, entitled “Optical Element Retracting Mechanism for a Photographic Lens,” filed on August 25, 2003.

Further, Applicant also brings the following copending and commonly assigned patent application to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/368,342 to NOMURA et al., entitled “Retractable Lens System and Method of Retracting a Retractable Lens System,” filed on February 20, 2003.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned four U.S. patent applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application, and thus, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

P23698.A01

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

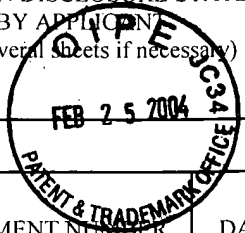
Respectfully submitted,
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P23698		Serial No. 10/646,811	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Hiroshi NOMURA			
				Filing Date August 25, 2003		Group 2851	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS											
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE					
	4 5 2 5 0 5 0	06/25/85	OHASHI								
	4 6 4 3 5 5 5	02/17/87	WAKABAYASHI								
	4 7 2 1 9 7 2	01/26/88	WAKABAYASHI								
	4 7 9 2 8 2 2	12/20/88	AKIYAMA et al.								
	5 8 1 8 6 4 7	10/06/98	NISHIO et al.								
	6 0 3 1 9 9 8	02/29/00	SHONO								
	4 4 5 1 1 2 9	05/29/84	IKARI et al.								
	4 6 4 3 5 5 4	02/17/87	OGAWA								
	4 7 7 1 3 0 3	09/13/88	MATSUMOYO et al.								
	4 8 8 7 1 0 7	12/12/89	NAKAMURA et al.								
	5 1 3 6 3 2 4	08/04/92	TSUBOI et al.								
	5 7 6 5 0 4 9	06/09/98	HASE et al.								
	5 8 3 2 3 2 6	11/03/98	TANAKA								
	6 3 6 6 3 2 3	04/02/02	SHONO et al.								

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO				
5 8 1 4 5 9 3 0	08/31/83	JAPAN							
6 1 - 6 9 0 0 2	04/09/86	JAPAN							
6 1 2 7 0 7 3 7	12/01/86	JAPAN							
6 3 1 4 9 6 2 9	06/22/88	JAPAN							
6 4 - 3 4 6 2 3	03/02/89	JAPAN			X				
6 - 1 8 7 7 7	01/28/94	JAPAN			X				
7 - 1 9 1 2 4 9	07/28/95	JAPAN							
1 1 1 0 9 2 0 3	04/23/99	JAPAN							

JAPAN OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.